

PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY NOTES.

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State Library and Museum. LIBRARY EXTENSION DIVISION

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These *Notes* are sent without charge to all libraries and library trustees. Please keep us informed of all changes so we may have our mailing list up to date.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

At a called meeting held in Chicago during the Christmas holidays the A. L. A. by a small majority of a small meeting, voted to endorse the proposed "Enlarged Program." This commits the Association to support this movement. It is unfortunate that the majority in favor of such a proposition was not larger as it is something which cannot possibly be put through without the co-operation of a large percentage of the members.

We are not able to give our readers any clear idea of what is intended because as yet none has appeared in print. We would like to be able to tell you about the matter but are unable to do so and can only say that while on the surface it looks good and may be a splendid thing we do not know enough to give it very hearty endorsement. We hope our people will keep their minds open, ready to receive any new light which may come from time to time and not to take any positive stand until full information is at hand.

The County Library idea is coming steadily to the front. Reports from those places in which it has been tried indicate that it is a great success. Out in California, libraries which were already established when the county plan was

adopted and which at first preferred to remain independent are now asking to be taken into the larger scheme. This indicates that experience has proven the wisdom of uniting all libraries in the county into one system instead of maintaining a number of independent institutions.

This same point is likely to come up in our State where there are so many libraries now in operation. These will naturally dislike to lose their independence and may be inclined to oppose the establishment of a county library. This experience of the libraries in California is interesting because it shows that the benefits from membership in the larger system outweigh the disadvantages.

The beauty of the county system is that better service can be given at less expense than in any other way. A tax rate of one mill, or less, when levied by the county will give a borough far better service than one of two mills levied by itself. This is because of economies which can be practiced in the purchase of books and the performance of the purely technical work. In the county system all of this latter will be done at the central library and the staff of the local branches will be left free to devote themselves to the real library work—bringing the readers and the books together.

We believe this is a splendid way of meeting the book needs. By it the farmers and dwellers in the most out-of-the-way parts of the country will be placed on much the same plane as those in the cities and towns. It will give every one the best of library service, because all will be close enough to the central li-

brary for an exchange of visits. It will give the children the supplementary reading necessary to enlarge their vocabulary and power of expression. It will give the adult access to the information which will make him a better neighbor and citizen. It will make the country a more attractive place in which to live and thus help to keep the young people on the farms. And it will help to unify the interests of the county and provide the leadership so necessary in their development.

PENNSYLVANIA—HER COUNTY LIBRARIES

A library, what is it? A collection of books. A Free Public County Library, what is that? A collection for books for the use of every man, woman and child in the county, **FREE OF CHARGE.**

And what are the possible benefits of such a library to you and me? It may bring every corner of the earth to our fireside by means of the printed page. I may sit by my fire on a winters' evening and visit the pyramids of Egypt. Again, I may spend an evening in England, Spain, Russia, or on the islands of the sea. Wheresoever man has traveled and transferred those travels to the pages of a book or magazine, there I may follow. I may spend my life in Pennsylvania and still become a world traveler.

Is literature a joy to you and poetry a delight? A County Library could give you access to a far greater number of such books than the finest private library in the country. And do you not enjoy a good novel at the close of a strenuous day? Surely we need not apologize for the use of good stories in a free library.

But some one asks "What practical benefit will it be to me?" Are you a farmer? A well equipped county library contains the most modern books on dairy,

orchard, poultry raising, etc. Do you wish to increase your yield of wheat per acre, do you want to know how to test seed corn, would you like expert advice on the amount of protein necessary in the ration of a laying hen, do you want practical helps for a good garden? For all this and much more you may depend upon the books to be found in a first class County Library. Perhaps your boy has shown a decided taste for electricity, mechanics, or some other branch of science or perhaps he is smuggling a Police Gazette or yellow backed novel upstairs at night. He can be supplied not only with books of science written for his age and understanding but with wholesome stories giving honest ideas and ideals of life.

Are you a railroad man, a teacher, lawyer, doctor, or minister? A County Library will supply you with ideas and methods to keep pace with your ambition for your particular line of work. If you are a merchant you will be interested in books on business systems and salesmanship. You are, perhaps, a mother and homekeeper trying to provide good food and suitable clothes for yourself and family. Perhaps this mother would be glad to read the experiences of other mothers in their efforts to make honest, useful citizens of their boys and girls. There are many really helpful books along this line to be had for the asking in a good library.

Every normal boy and girl is anxious to learn more and yet more of the world and the people in it, of men and women who have been successful and how they did it; that they love tales of adventure and hair breath escapes is equally true, especially if the chair is comfy and the apple good. And, finally, what of the littlest ones, the curly heads wanting a story read to them, a bit of rhyme, or fairy tale?

If you are numbered among any of these good people you are interested in County Libraries for Pennsylvania and every county in Pennsylvania. Other states have County Libraries, why not Pennsylvania? When these Libraries are in operation you will be able to secure your book at one of the branch Libraries scattered through the county, at a store or school house or by parcel post, or later, by a traveling Library on wheels which will call at your door; but one thing is true IF ENOUGH PEOPLE WANT COUNTY LIBRARIES AND SAY SO? THEY WILL HAVE THEM. The County Commissioners will, doubtless, make an appropriation for this purpose if it is shown that the people really want them.

Anything worth having is worth asking for; will you work for a County Library, will you talk about it and will you begin to-day by writing your appeal to your County Commissioners.

HELEN PRICE HARVEY, Foxburg.

BOOKS FOR THE RURAL POPULATION

The United States Commissioner of Education informs us, out of his nationwide experience, that the only way to reach the people of the farms and towns of the nation with adequate library service is through the County Library. He has come to this conclusion because of the following fact. A county has enough taxable wealth to support most acceptably a county library whose one purpose would be meeting the library needs of all the county residents. But a county can do this only when operating as a unit. Divide the money which would be sufficient for a county library system among the subdivisions of a county and

bid them act independently in library matters and all the people would suffer from very inadequate library service.

Through a long period of experimentation the following plan of supplying all the people of a county with library advantages has been adopted. A headquarters library is established either at the county seat or some other community center. Here are found the county collection of books and periodicals and an expert staff of library workers. From this point radiate the county library activities. We will suppose there are scattered throughout a county fifteen or twenty community centers. Some may be quite small while others may be good sized towns. Each of these is entitled to a branch library. In most cases branches are located in stores suitable for the handling of library collections. The custodians of these collections are paid nominal salaries in return for which they are expected to perform all the duties devolving on rural librarians, such, for example, as keeping records of books loaned, changing collections at stated intervals and looking after the special book needs of their respective communities. In the case of good sized communities reading rooms may be established, if funds warrant, and such reading rooms may be operated under the general supervision of the county librarian and with books and periodicals supplied by the county library.

The great advantage of the county library system is, it gives every community the advantage of all the library resources of the county, capable librarians, a large, changing up-to-date collection of the world's best books and periodicals, and effective machinery for meeting the book needs of all the people.

The county library with its branches may be compared with the federal government and the forty-eight states. The

strength of the federal government lies in the perfect union of the forty-eight states. The strength of the county library lies in the perfect co-operation of all its branches. Our ideal is to reach all the people with library service. This ideal is realized through the county library.

E. J. ANTRIM,
Van Wert, Ohio.

WHY A COUNTY LIBRARY?

Do people want books, and will they use them if provided? There is a general feeling that they will not. As the doubters look around they see few homes with books and the inference is drawn that only a few like to read. All experience, however, shows that this inference is not correct. Wherever free libraries have been opened in an adequate way they have been a success from the start. It is not necessary to teach people to enjoy reading. They take to it as naturally as a duck takes to water. There are some ducks which have never swum, but it is doubtful if any duck ever failed to do so if it had the chance.

This is the trouble in the matter of reading; people have never had the chance. Hundred of cases can be cited to show that wherever the opportunity comes it is eagerly seized. The reports of libraries everywhere show this. Two county libraries in adjoining states report that fifty per cent. of the population is drawing books for home use and that an average of three volumes for each resident of the county are taken. There is no question that books will be read if they are put where folks can get them. A recent writer says, "People don't know they want books." Give them a chance and they will discover that they do. In

one of our counties there was an exhibit of books at the county fair, last September. When the lady who had charge returned to the exhibit after an absence of a few minutes she found three children flat on the floor, each with a book in which he was so deeply interested that the return of the custodian was not noticed.

The difficulty is to furnish the books. Few feel able to buy more than two or three books in a year and many are so situated that they do not know what or how to buy. In the towns there is some opportunity to see books, but not much, and to those who live on the farms and in the small villages there is absolutely none. In the towns it is possible to establish libraries and get books by co-operative action. Many towns are levying a tax to accomplish this, but in the country, where books mean more, this is impossible except by means of a county library. By the united action of all the residents a library can be established which will meet the needs of all, and at comparatively little expense.

In Washington County, Maryland, there is a collection of good and suitable books in every school house in the county whose teacher wishes it. Every grange hall or farmers' club and every Sunday School which wants it has a collection of splendid books, and in the larger towns are larger collections. No matter where he lives, the farmer who wants a book on farm machinery or other subject, the school teacher who want something to help her in her work, the preacher who is trying to do better service and needs books, the boy who wants to learn to raise better corn, the girl who is going to give a party and wants to have some new games, in fact every one who is trying to learn about any subject can get just what is needed by writing a postal card or telephoning to the county seat.

This is because there is a county library which makes it possible. And the cost of it all is less than thirty cents per capita a year.

In the long winter evenings there is nothing like books to help pass the time. In the effort to do better work and get ahead, there is nothing like books which tell how others are doing. When we are tired and discouraged there is nothing like a book to make us forget how tired and discouraged we are. When we want to travel and see other places and meet other people and see how they do things, but cannot go ourselves, there is nothing like a book.

And the best way in which to get all this is by co-operation by all the county.

ROBERT P. BLISS,
Harrisburg.

LIBRARY LAW

Authority for the establishment of county libraries is given by the Act of July 20, 1917. (No. 398) (P. L. 1143) According to this Act.

(a) The Commissioners of any county may establish and maintain a public library for the use of the residents and may appropriate annually not more than two mills. This may be provided by a special tax, or the library may be included in the annual budget like any other item.

(b) If the Commissioners are in doubt as to making such an appropriation they may submit the question to the people at an election and shall be guided by the vote.

(c) Should the Commissioners turn down a request to establish a library the petitioners may force action by presenting a petition signed by three per cent. of the voters at the next preceeding election

asking the Commissioners to submit such establishment to vote. In this case the question must be put before the people at the next ensuing election.

(d) The County Commissioners may make an appropriation not to exceed two mills to a public library already existing for the extension of the library privileges to those who live in the county. This library may be in an adjoining county, and there should be a definite agreement between it and the Commissioners declaring what each will do.

(e) If the people in a county raise by popular subscription an amount equivalent to the proceeds of a two mill tax and give this to the Commissioners to establish a library it must be accepted and the library started at once. Not more than two per cent. of this amount may be subscribed by any one person or firm.

In the case of (a) (b) (c) and (e) the County Commissioners will appoint a board of not more than seven directors who will have absolute and full control of all monies intended for the library.

FORM OF PETITION

We the undersigned, voters of
County at the general election
 held on,
 respectfully petition the County Commissioners of said county to submit to the voters at the election to be held on the question of levying a mill tax for the purpose of establishing or maintaining or both a free public library for the residents of said county, under the provisions of the Act of July 20, 1917 (P. L. 1143).

HEALTH LITERATURE

The Library Extension Division has made arrangements with the National Organization for Public Health Nursing by which we are made a depository for such printed material as will be serviceable to the nurses and those interested in preventive health matters. We have gathered a fine lot of material on all phases of health and sanitation and the libraries should make good use of it.

GOSSIP'S CORNER

Berwyn.

Mrs. Edith Beaumont has been appointed librarian of the Berwyn Public Library in place of Miss Johnson who resigned.

Bethayres.

Huntingdon Valley Free Library opened to the public November 12, 1919.

Biglerville.

The librarian of the Memorial Free Library writes "we find working in the library a great pleasure now and people are beginning to take a great interest. Every week we have three or four new borrowers." This from a village of about 400 in population where the library had not been free until recently. The library gave a play and cleared \$60 for new books.

Bradford.

After seventeen years service, Susan L. Sherman has given up her much loved library to take the larger opportunity offered in the Free Library of Butler. The good wishes of all her library friends will go with her.

Grace N. Steele, who has been first assistant in the Carnegie Library, has been made librarian.

Bryn Mawr.

The Community Center Library is going with a swing which is very pleasing to all concerned. The library is situated in the front room on the main floor of the Community House, where it is easy of access and conspicuous to all visitors. The schools voted \$500 for the work this year. Fannie Arthur is librarian.

Butler.

Clara B. McJunkin has given up her little library which did such a big work for so many years and has gone to Cleveland to take the open course in the library school and to have a good play-time for a while.

Susan L. Sherman of Bradford, was appointed librarian of the Butler library and took charge about the first of March. The plan is to push the completion of the Carnegie building as soon as possible, and they also have visions of a county library, some day.

Chester.

West End Free Library of Chester held its 12th anniversary the evening of January 20th. Helen E. Roekwell of the Library Extension Division was the speaker of the evening and music by some of the best local talent was much enjoyed. The librarian's report showed the growth of the library and need of better financial support.

Clarion.

Clarion hopes to be the first county in the State to establish a library under the new law. On February 6th a meeting was held with the County Commissioners, asking them to appropriate a one mill tax for this purpose. An overwhelming proportion of the voters had signed the petitions presented at the meeting.

Cooperstown.

The library founded by the W. C. T. U. in 1908, has been given to the town, and placed in the care of the Cooperstown Library Association. A fund of \$300 has been given towards a building and money is being raised for books. The library will be for the community.

Darby

The Darby Free Library is being organized according to modern library methods. The old books of which this library has such a valuable collection, have been taken upstairs and arranged upon shelves in the spacious auditorium. The library room has a fresh coat of paint and Mrs. Laura E. Bailey, the librarian, is looking forward to bigger things for the second oldest library in the State.

DuBois.

At last one town had the "biff" to put the question of a Public Library squarely up to the people and the results were beyond all hopes.

For sometime the Woman's Club had been planning for a library and working to create a sentiment in favor of it but the war work had seemed to interfere for a time. In the fall the idea was revived. The schools required the children to write essays on the value of a library and thus launched a campaign which got into the homes. Every other force in the town was lined up in favor—the various clubs, chamber of commerce etc. A vote was taken on the question in November and it passed by a large majority. Councils was thereby instructed to levy a two mill tax for establishing and maintaining a Public Library. Isn't that great! It would be almost a library millennium if all of our towns could do likewise. And what a relief to have it started so surely and substantially. A

library board has been appointed and plans are being made to begin work as soon as the money becomes available in May. There will be over \$6,000 income to begin with.

Gratz.

The village of Gratz and Lykens Townships have combined to form a Community Library as a memorial to the four of the forty-eight men who were sent to France and did not return. A well attended public meeting was held on January 23d to launch the plant. Mr. Shambaugh, County Superintendent of Schools spoke on the "Value of the community idea," and Anna MacDonald on the "Value of a public library." Blocks in a proposed building were sold and \$525 raised. A large store room has been rented and fixed up to suit the library needs. A part of the room will be used as a small meeting place. Magazines have been ordered, books purchased and prepared for use, a traveling library secured to help and it is hoped to have the library opened soon.

An old fashioned debating society has been formed and will meet in the library room. The plan is in time to put up a Memorial Building to house the Community Library. Mrs. Paull will be librarian.

Harrisburg.

Jane Brown has resigned her position in the Public Library to become assistant to Henry S. Green, who is library advisor to the Educational and Recreational Department with the Army of the North east. Their headquarters will be in Boston.

Hazleton.

Miss Willigerod reports that her library has for the first time this past year sent collections of books to all the

township schools,—21 in number. This is surely the right beginning for county work.

Kane.

M. Leona Peterson became the bride of Edwin Watson Fitzgerald, October 8, 1919, but did not resign her position from the Kane Library until December 1. Helen Cheeseman has been appointed librarian.

Kennett Square.

A local library meeting was held in the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library on February 18. A beautiful day, a keen interest in the topics discussed, a good lunch, a visit to Bayard Taylor's home and a hearty welcome made the day most enjoyable. The principle topics on the program were the two in the general outline of study followed on the "Value of the Library; service vs. cost, equipment and organization" led by Sarah P. Bedford and "The librarian, by what is she judged?" led by Loretta Much.

Then came a report on A. L. A. work in France, some local history of Kennett and of Mr. Taylor and the new county library idea presented by Mr. Bliss.

The town was conducting a campaign to raise money for books.

Marietta.

A beautiful Community House splendidly furnished and equipped has been given to the town by Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Hiestand in memory of their son, Lt. Hiestand who did not return from France. There are parlors, a dining room and kitchen equipment, class rooms, billiard and pool rooms. Twenty-five thousand dollars was raised by the town as an endowment for its up-keep and later \$10,000 more to start work on an auditorium and swimming pool.

On the second floor is a very attractive library room, well lighted with pretty shelves and tables. The town will gather what books and magazines they have, a small sum has been set aside for the purchase of books and the library will be a branch of the Lancaster County Library, and have books from that center. The whole building and plan is a splendid thing and has been very popular.

Lancaster.

The A Herr Smith Library began active County work in the fall when the County Commissioners gave the library as much money for carrying it on as the city was giving. One branch, in the schools of Ephrata, has been made permanent, a branch is to be opened in Mt. Joy and help will be given to the Community House Library, Marietta. Besides this many books are drawn out of Central library by county residents when in the city.

Lansdowne.

The appearance of the Lansdowne Library has been greatly improved by the placing of more shelves around the room and moving the desk to the front of the room.

Lock Haven.

Mrs. Elveretta Blake has been made librarian of the Ross Library. Miss Hulings resigned some time ago to take the Van Wert County Library, Ohio, and Helen Kintzing was acting librarian for a time.

Montrose.

Blanche Jones, who has been assistant in the Susquehanna County Library at Montrose for the past year and a half, has resigned her position to take a business position.

North East.

The Woman's Club was helping the library out by raising money for new books. And like all libraries, the McCord Memorial Library reports a larger circulation than ever.

Paoli.

Directors of the Public Library have purchased the building formerly known as the Town Hall for the library. Great interest has been manifested by the community and plans are being made to carry on the work on a larger scale.

Parksburg.

The statistics of the Public Library show the work growing most satisfactorily.

Philadelphia Apprentices Library.

The centenary of the Apprentices Library has just been celebrated. A reception was held in the library building on the afternoon of the 24th and a special meeting of the Historical Society was held on the evening of the 25th at which Dr. Montgomery was one of the speakers. The library was opened in Carpenter's Hall on February 24, 1820.

Philadelphia—City Institute Library.

Mrs. Mary Fell, librarian for 49 years has resigned her office and Miss Mary E. Hoffman has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Pittsburgh—Carnegie Library.

All of the Pennsylvania Library world will be sorry to learn that Effie L. Power has given up her work as Head of the Children's Department of the Carnegie Library. She was well known, was always ready to help all who came to her and her suggestions were always practical and good. She will be much missed if she leaves the State.

Lucy E. Fay, well known to many as one of the authors of "Instruction in the use of books and libraries" has joined the staff of the Carnegie Library School. The Carnegie Technical School has started a three-years general course to lead to the fourth year in the library school. The graduates will be given a library degree.

Ridley Park.

A very handsome tablet in memory of the men in the service has been placed on the outside of the Ridley Park Library. The tablet was made by Bailey, Banks and Biddle, of Philadelphia, and cost \$1,200.

Sayre.

Helen Thurston, of the Spalding Memorial Library, Athens, is cataloging the High School Library.

Shenandoah.

The Public Library has grown into two large well lighted rooms in the High School building.

Star Junction.

A public library has been opened in the Community Hall. Eleanor Knox is librarian.

Troy.

Miss Grace M. Sayles, librarian of the Troy Public Library for the past year, died March 6 after a twelve weeks illness. Miss Sayles was one of our rare women and the Pennsylvania Library world has lost one of its most staunch supporters.

Union City.

The library has been affected by the prevailing "flu" and other diseases. The manufacturers of the town have given tables and chairs to fit out an additional reading room and story hour accommoda-

tions. The children raised \$122.00 by a tag day and the people have shown their interest by many presents of books.

Upper Darby.

Elizabeth Turner for many years the English teacher in the Upper Darby High School, has been appointed in charge of the library.

Wayne.

Mrs. Frances Shaw, the librarian of the George W. Childs library has returned from a trip to California.

West Chester—Public Library.

The library is resplendent in its new floor covering of battleship linoleum.

West Springfield.

A school-community library has been opened by the Parent-Teacher Association. About 1,000 volumes were given and combined with the old High School library for a start. It has been well organized, is open two days per week and is very popular. Mrs. Agnes D. James is librarian.

Woodlawn.

The Woman's Club is talking a Public Library for Woodlawn and seem to be meeting with much encouragement.

Wyomissing.

Two enterprising citizens of Wyomissing have purchased a house and lot on Penn Street for the public library. There are three attractive and well equipped rooms on the first floor for library use and the second floor is rented as an apartment.

Wilkes-Barre.

Miss MacDowell who has been a member of the Osterhout Library staff for the past six months has resigned her position and returned to her home in Ohio.

NOTICE, LIBRARIANS !

Report blanks will be sent to the various libraries in the State early in the month in which, according to the records, the fiscal years ends. We cannot lay too much emphasis upon the desirability of filling out these reports promptly and returning them to the office of the Library Extension Division—and please do not forget that the financial statistics are quite as important as those relating to circulation, etc.

The following bound magazines will be given to the library which wishes them:

Harrisburg Public Library has
Atlantic Monthly, v. 1-7, Nov. 1857—
June 1861.

Century, v. 8-21 (new series).

Harper, v. 9, 13, 15, 35, 43, 46-48,
50-52, 54-55, 80.

Erie Public Library has
Century v. 41, 44-53, 55-56, 58-60,
69-70, 73, 76-84.

The Dimock Library would like to exchange their duplicate set of Harper v. 2-77 for later volumes.

